Revision of pay scales of Income Tax Inspectors

1428. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to revise the pay scales of Income Tax Inspectors, ITOs, etc. in pursuance of CAT's decision is under consideration of the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) by when the pay scales are likely to be revised; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Reduction in rural credit

1429. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nationalised banks reduced credit for rural areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that Andhra Bank has sharply cut down their rural lending in the last two years;

(c) whether any review has been done of this deliberate reduction of rural credit by such nationalised banks;

(d) the extent of rural credit given by Andhra Bank during the last two financial years; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that rural credit needs are met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL):-(a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has repoted that lending to agriculture by public sector banks, including nationalised banks, have been increasing year by year as indicated below:

(Rs. Crores)

Sector	March, 2001	March, 2002
Total Priority Sector Advances	146546	171185
Total Advances to Agriculture	53685	63083

(b) to (d) the total advances provided by Andhra Bank to priority sector and agriculture as on March, 2001 and March, 2002 are as under:

(Rs. Crores)

	March, 2001	March, 2002
Total Priority Sector Advances	277.02	3401.21
Total Advances to Agriculture	1048.89	1389.07

It may be observed that the outstanding amounts have increased in absolute terms.

Review of agriculture lending by Bank is done on regular basis by Bank Boards as well as by RBI and Government.

(e) RBI has taken several steps to ensure the flow of credit to agriculture and rural sector. These include formulating Special Agricultural Credit Plans (SACPs) by Public Sector Banks, openign of Specialised Agricultural Finance Branches, introduction of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) and issue of KCCs against specific targets issued every year, implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the High Level Committee on Agricultural Credit, assistance to States under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) maintained with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), introduction of micro-credit delivery system, etc.

World Bank loan outstanding against Andhra Pradesh

1430. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loan amount outstanding against Government of Andhra Pradesh to World Bank, IMF, and various other International Financial Institutions as on date;

(b) the details of total interest or service charges amount per year, being paid and kept outstanding by Andhra Pradesh Government to these International Financial Institutions as on date;

(c) whether the Central Government have given counter-guarantee to these International Financial Institutions on behalf of Andhra Pradesh Government; and